GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1358
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
BANK FRAUD CRIMINAL SLIPPED OUT OF THE COUNTRY
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US-based NRI chargesheeted by the CBI in a $9 million bank fraud case, slipped out of the country as reported in the `Indian Express` dated May 18, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the officials those helped him to slip out of the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have requested the Interpol for help in nabbing the said NRI;

(e) if so, the details therefor; and

(f) the progress made so far in the case?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a): After investigation of case No. RC 1(A)/94-SIU the CBI, New Delhi, four chargesheets vide CC No.97/2000, 98/2000, 99/200(and 100/2000 were filed in the Court of Shri S.G. Deshmukh, Special Judge, Mumbai on 29.12.2000Shri Sant Singh Chatwal of M/s Panama City Restaurant, Chicago is one of the accused in CC Nos 97/2000 and 98/2000.The Court Case No.98/2000 was fixed for 11.4.2001 for the appearance of the accused. The accused Shri Chatwal appeared before the court and was granted bail by the court. Thereafter, he applied for permission of the Court to leave India for USA which was opposed by the CBIHowever, he was permitted by the Court to go abroad after execution of a PR Bond of Rs. 15 lakhs and depositing an equivalent amount.The Prosecution (CBI) moved the Court on 30.4.2001 to stay the above order for 10 days to enable the Prosecution to file a Revision Petition in the Hon`ble High Court.The Hon`ble Special Judge was pleased to stay his orders up to 7.5.2001.The Special Criminal Writ Petition was filed by the Prosecution in the High Court but the Hon`ble High Court could not take up the matter up to 8.5.2001 when the Counsel for the accused filed an application that the accused had left India for New York by the morning flight on 8.5.2001 as the stay was upto 7.5.2001. However, the accused has again appeared before the Court on the next date of hearing i.e. on 15.6.2001.

(b),(c),(d)&(e): Does not arise.

(f): The case is under trial in the Court of the Special Judge, Mumbai.